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# PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

### Improvements in or relating to Flower Pots

I, BILEEN FLORENCE PEARCE-SMITH, of 14, Woodhall Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, a British subject, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to plastic flower pots constructed from synthetic thermoplastic material.

According to the present invention, there is provided a flower pot of frusto-conical shape constructed from synthetic thermoplastic material, wherein the base of the pot is formed with a plurality of holes or slots, said holes or slots being of a size sufficient to allow adequate drainage of liquid from the pot but insufficient to allow substantial loss of soil therefrom, and wherein the base of the pot is raised above a supporting surface upon which the pot may be placed by means of three or more protuberances formed on the external surface of the base within the periphery thereof and positioned at spaced intervals thereon, whereby the escape of liquid draining from beneath the pot will not be substantially hindered. The pot may also have a protruding ring or band on the exterior wall and adjacent or near the rim thereof, which ring or band prevents one pot from jamming within another when two or more pots are stacked for storage or transportation.

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of one form of flower pot in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a section on the line II—II of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view of a second form of flower pot according to the invention;

Figure 4 is a section on the line IV—IV of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a plan view of a third form of flower pot according to the invention; and

Figure 6 is a section on the line VI—VI of Figure 4.

Referring now to Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings, a frusto-conical shaped flower pot 1 of synthetic thermoplastic material is constructed with a smooth interior wall 2 and a smooth exterior wall 3. Adjacent the rim 4 of the pot 1 and on the exterior wall 3 thereof there is a slightly protruding band 5 having a width of about 0.3 inches. The base 6 of the pot has two series of holes 7 and 8, each in the form of two concentric arcs of holes arranged on opposite sides of the base 6. Extending from near the outer edge of the external surface of the base 6 are four protuberances 9 which extend about 0.009 inches below the base of the pot, each of which is positioned at one end of the series of holes 7 or 8.

Referring now to Figures 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings, there is shown a frusto-conical shaped flower pot of synthetic thermoplastic material similar to that shown in Figures 1 and 2, but in which the two series of holes 7 and 8 are replaced by four slots 10 which extend from near the outer edge of the base 6 towards the centre thereof, each slot being disposed substantially at right angles to the slots on either side thereof. In the pot shown in Figures 3 and 4, the protuberances 9 are disposed on

[Price : ]

the base of the pot substantially mid-way between the slots 10.

Referring now to Figure 5 and 6 of the accompanying drawings, there is shown a frusto-conical shaped flower pot of synthetic thermoplastic material similar to that shown in Figures 1 and 2, but in which the two series of holes are replaced by eight holes 11 arranged symmetrically in a ring in the base 6 of the pot. A ring 12 is formed adjacent the rim of the pot to prevent one pot from jamming within another. The base 6 of the pot is formed with a shallower dome which assists the flow of water to the drainage holes 11.

The flower pots of the present invention may be constructed from any suitable synthetic thermoplastic material. Preferably polystyrene or polythene is employed.

The size of the slots or holes in the base of the pot are calculated to give a sufficient drainage. With a base having holes therein, the number and size of the holes may be such that when filled with water the pot will empty in about 10 seconds. Thus for example with a pot of the type shown in Figures 1 and 2 having a base of diameter about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches, the holes may each have a diameter of about one-sixteenth of an inch. With a pot of the type shown in Figures 5 and 6, the diameter of the base being about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches, each hole may have a diameter of about one-eighth of an inch.

The pots may be constructed in various sizes, for example the rim diameter may range from 2 to 12 inches, and may be coloured or transparent. The latter is more advantageous when the pots are used in making root observation tests.

The plastic flower pots of the present invention have several advantages over the normal type of clay flower pot. These may be summarized as follows:—

(a) The plastic material from which the pots are manufactured is largely unaffected by acids and alkalis and solutions of inorganic salts.

(b) Being non-porous, the plastic flower pots are easily sterilized by immersion in a suitable antiseptic solution. This method of sterilisation is much more simple than the laborious method of steam baking to which clay flower pots have to be subjected.

(c) The plastic flower pots are not porous as are the normal clay flower pots,

so that a longer period of time may elapse before watering is necessary.

(d) Since the base of the pot is provided with small slots or holes instead of a relatively large hole as is the case in the known clay flower pots, it is not necessary to place a piece of broken clay pot or like material in the bottom of the pot to prevent loss of soil.

(e) The protuberances on the base of the pot ensure adequate drainage when the pot is placed on a smooth or flat surface.

(f) By reason of the protruding ring hereinbefore mentioned large numbers of pots can be stored one inside the other without fear of jamming or breakage.

(g) The smooth walls of the pot enable them to fit snugly when stacked within one another. This effectively prevents the ingress of dust and dirt.

(h) There is little likelihood of the plastic flower pots breaking or cracking when dropped on a hard floor.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A flower pot of frusto-conical shape constructed from synthetic thermoplastic material, wherein the base of the pot is formed with a plurality of holes or slots, said holes or slots being of a size sufficient to allow adequate drainage of liquid from the pot but insufficient to allow substantial loss of soil therefrom, and wherein the base of the pot is raised above a supporting surface upon which the pot may be placed by means of three or more protuberances formed on the external surface of the base within the periphery thereof and positioned at spaced intervals thereon, whereby the escape of liquid draining from beneath the pot will not be substantially hindered.

2. A flower pot as in Claim 1, wherein the pot has a protruding ring or band on the exterior wall and adjacent or near the rim thereof, whereby risk of jamming one pot within another is substantially prevented.

3. A flower pot constructed from synthetic thermoplastic material, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, Figures 1 and 2, or Figures 3 and 4, or Figures 5 and 6, of the accompanying drawings.

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#### PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

#### Improvements in or relating to Flower Pots

I, EILEEN FLORENCE PEARCE-SMITH, of 14, Woodhall Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, a British subject, do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following statement:—

This invention relates to flower pots and relates in particular to plastic flower pots constructed from synthetic thermoplastic material.

According to the present invention, there

is provided a flower pot of synthetic thermoplastic material the sides of which pot taper inwards towards the base thereof, wherein the base of the pot comprises a number of slits or holes of a size sufficient to allow adequate drainage of liquid from the pot but insufficient to allow substantial loss of soil therefrom. Preferably the base of the flower pot also has a number of small protuberances thereon so that when the pot is placed on a smooth surface drainage of liquid from the pot will not be hindered. The pot may also have a slightly protruding ring on the exterior wall and near the rim thereof, which ring prevents one pot from jamming within another when stacked for storage or transportation.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood and easily carried into effect, a preferred embodiment thereof will now be described.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a frusto-conical shaped plastic flower pot is constructed from polystyrene and has a rim diameter of three inches. The interior and exterior walls of the pot are smooth. Immediately below the rim of the pot and on the exterior wall thereof there is a slightly protruding ring having a width of about 0.3 inches. The base of the pot has four narrow slits which extend from near the outer edge of the base towards the centre thereof, each slit being disposed at right angles to slits on either side thereof. Positioned near the outer edge of the base at points midway between the slits are four protuberances which extend about .009 inches below the base of the pot.

Instead of slits, the base of the pot may have one or more series of holes arranged in an arc between the four protuberances. Preferably in this case, the base comprises two series of holes, each series being in the form of two concentric arcs and arranged on opposite sides of the base between a pair of the protuberances.

The flower pots of the present invention may be constructed from any suitable synthetic thermoplastic material. Preferably polystyrene or polythene is employed.

The size of the slits or holes in the base of the pot are calculated to give a sufficient drainage. Thus with a base having holes therein the number and size of

the holes may be such that when filled with water the pot will empty in about 10 seconds. The pots themselves may be constructed in various sizes, for example the rim diameter may range from 2 to 12 inches.

The plastic pots may be coloured or transparent. The latter is more advantageous when the pots are used in making root observation tests.

The plastic flower pots of the present invention have several advantages over the normal type of clay flower pot. These may be summarized as follows:—

(a) The plastic material from which the pots are manufactured is largely unaffected by acids and alkalis and solutions of inorganic salts.

(b) Being non-porous, the plastic flower pots are easily sterilized by immersion in a suitable antiseptic solution. This method of sterilisation is simpler than the laborious method of steam baking to which clay flower pots have to be subjected.

(c) The plastic flower pots are not porous as are the normal clay flower pots, so that a longer period of time may elapse before watering is necessary.

(d) Since the base of the pot is provided with small slits or holes instead of a relatively large hole as is the case in the known clay flower pots, it is not necessary to place a piece of broken clay pot or like material in the bottom of the pot to prevent loss of soil.

(e) The protuberances on the base of the pot ensure adequate drainage when the pot is placed on a smooth or flat surface.

(f) By reason of the protruding ring hereinbefore mentioned large numbers of pots can be stored one inside the other without fear of jamming or breakage.

(g) The smooth walls of the pot enable them to fit snugly when stacked within one another. This effectively prevents the ingress of dust and dirt.

(h) There is little likelihood of the plastic flower pots breaking or cracking when dropped on a hard floor.

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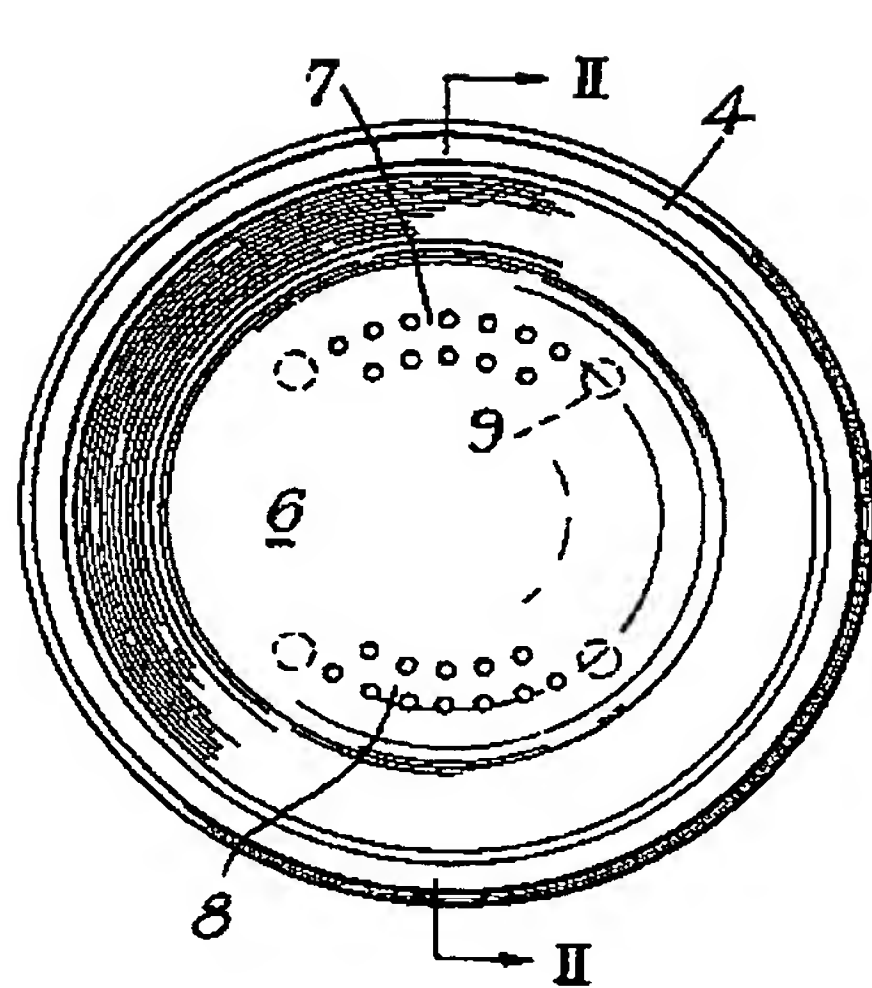


FIG. 1.

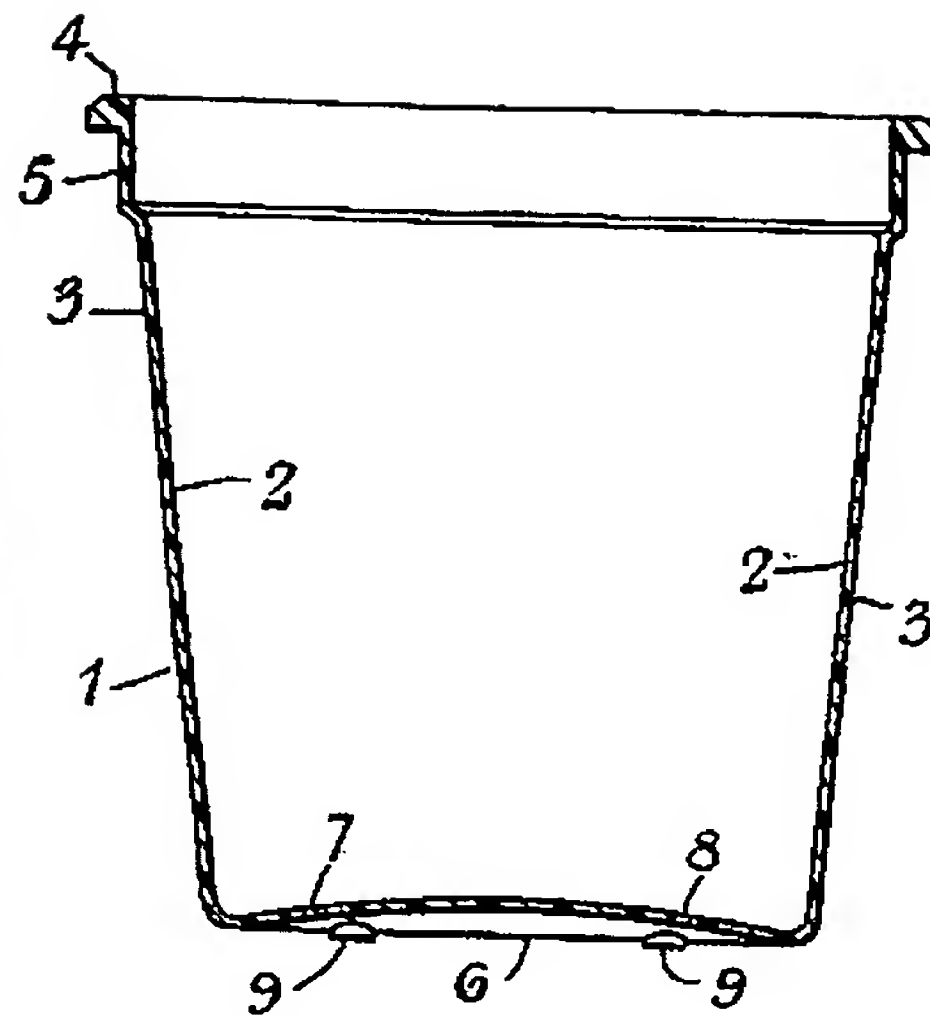


FIG. 2.

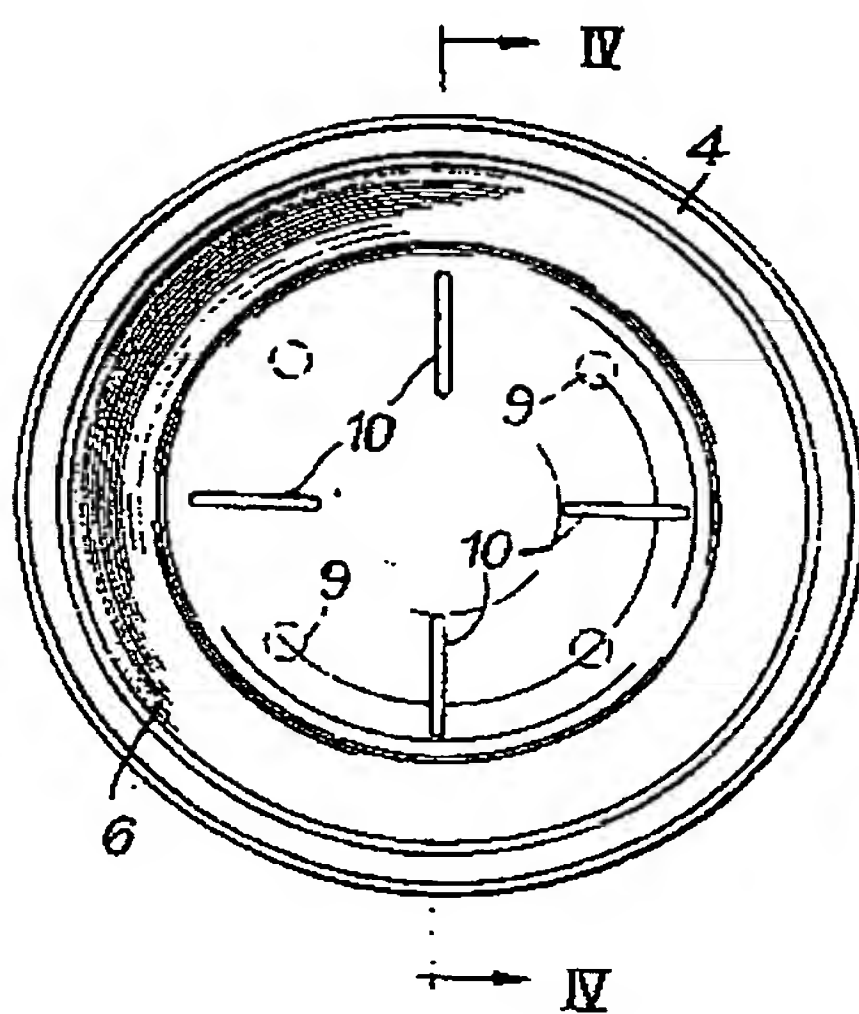


FIG. 3.

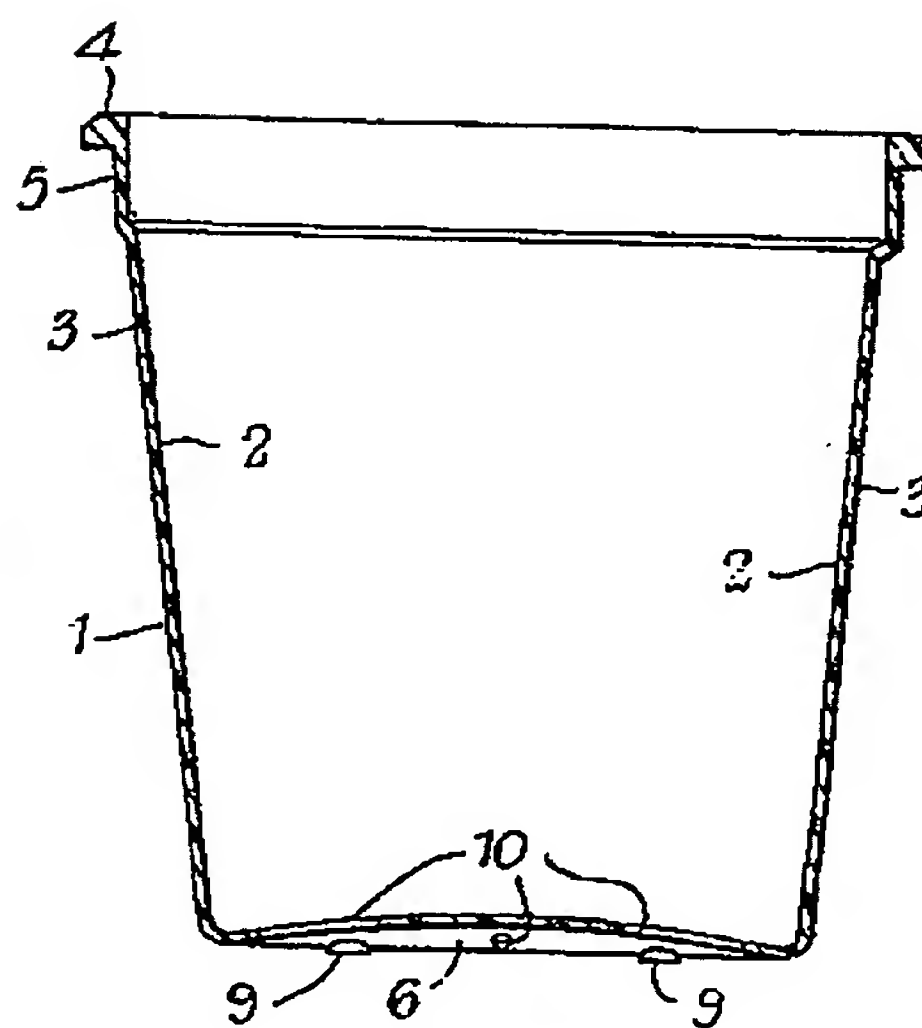


FIG. 4.

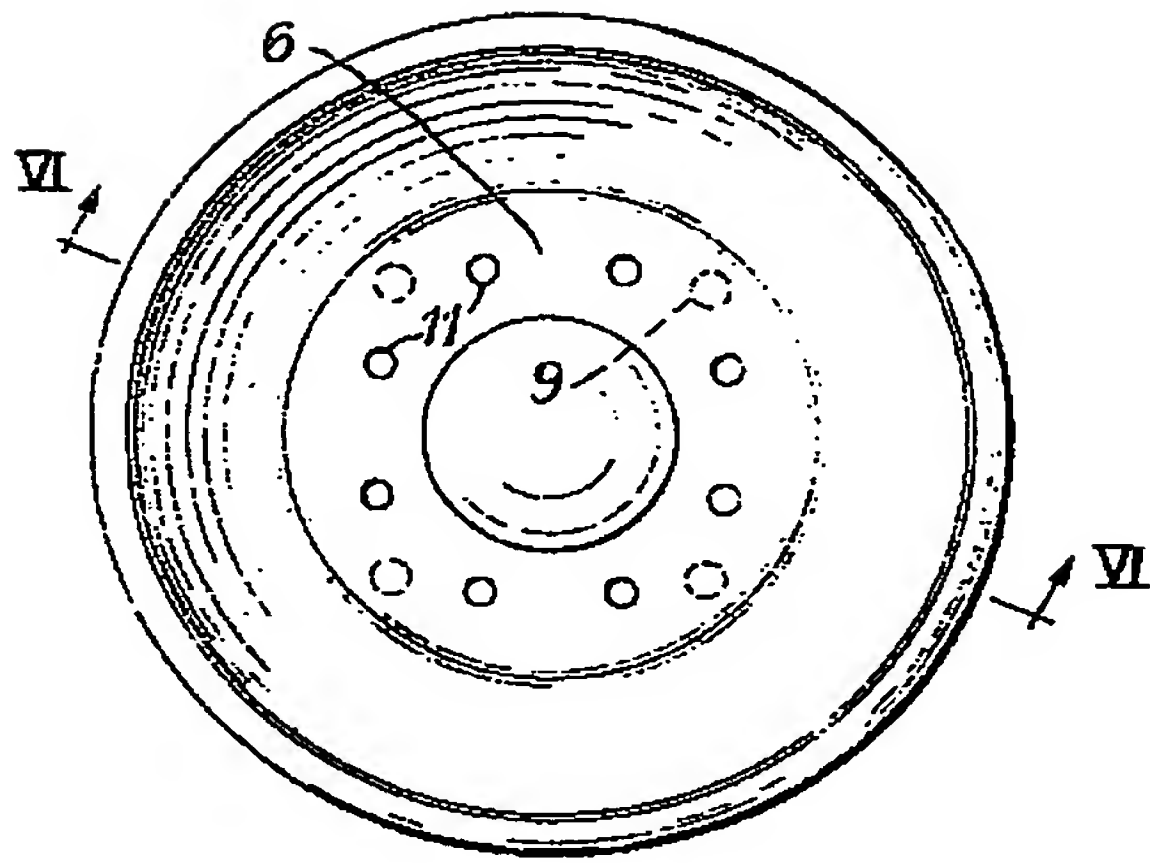
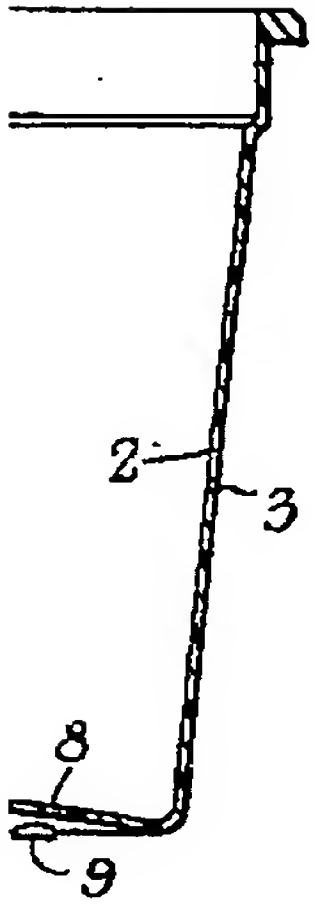


FIG. 5.

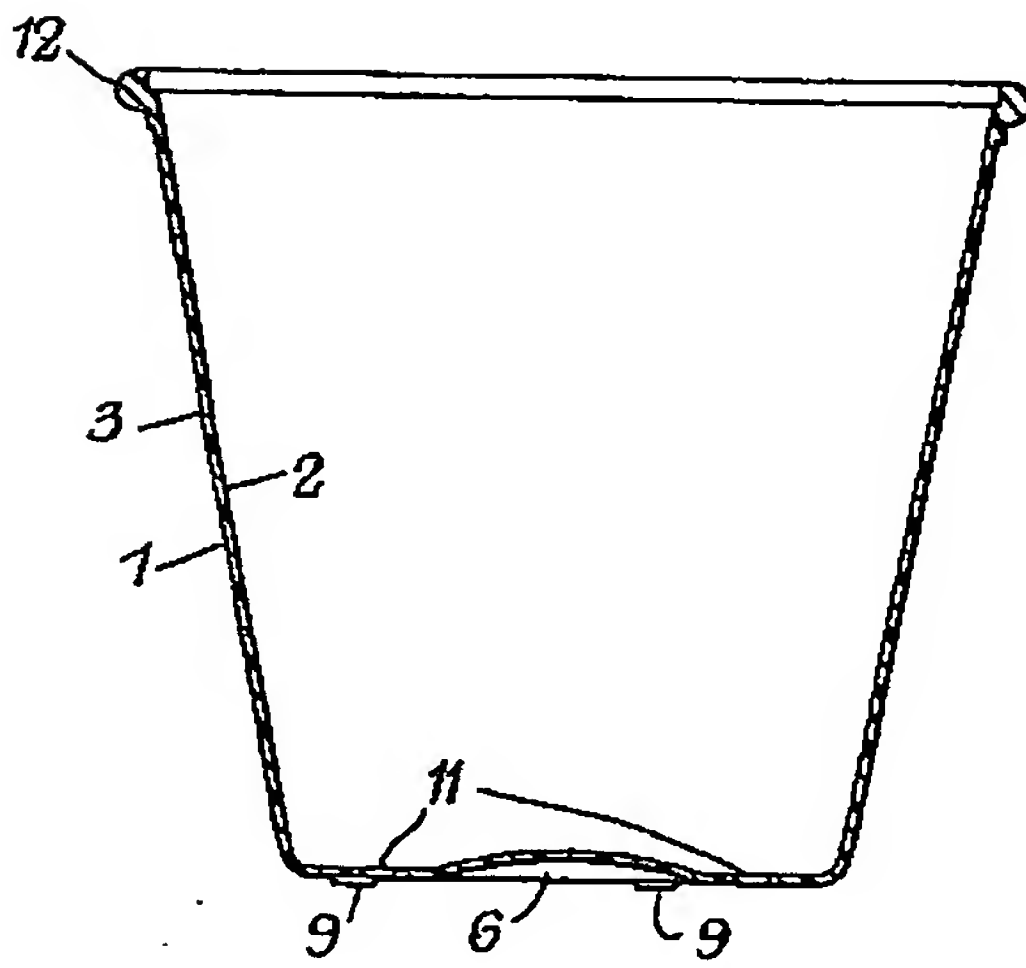
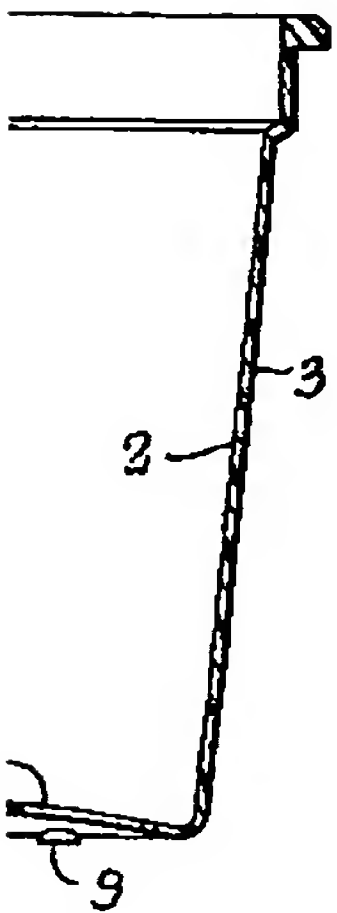


FIG. 6.

